GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1043
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2005
GANGA ACTION PLAN
Rawale Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Ganga Action Plan;

(b) whether pollution has assumed alarming proportion in Banaras and Kanpur due to discharge of approximately 36 crores litres of industrial effluents into the river Ganga;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government and the concerned State Governments are contemplating to take any action with mutual cooperation to check the pollution;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) The Ganga Action Plan Phase-I which covered 25 towns in the State of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal was completed on 31.3.2000. A capacity to treat 865 million litres per day of sewage was created under the Plan. Under Phase-II, 61 schemes have been completed so far.

(b) The Government is aware of the pollution in Varanasi and Kanpur due to discharge of industrial effluents into river Ganga. However, the quantity of industrial discharge is comparatively on much lower side than sewage. Also, the industrial discharge is significantly less than 36 crore litres. The river water quality at Varanasi and Kanpur is being monitored by Central Pollution Control Board regularly. The water quality has shown significant improvement in terms of Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD). Despite more than 100 per cent increase in population in cities and towns located on the river upstream of the monitoring stations, the average lean season (when pollution concentrations are highest) BOD level has fallen in Kanpur from 8.6 milligram per litre (mg/l) in 1986 to 5.7 mg/l in 2004. Similarly, in Varanasi, from BOD of about 11 mg/l in 1986, it has fallen to less than 3 mg/l in 2004.

(c) to (d) The Pollution level in Ganga is being regularly monitored and action taken as needed. Most of the actions are taken with mutual cooperation between Central and State Pollution Control Boards. These include joint surveys, monitoring and subsequent action.

(e) Does not arise.